



State Capitol
Room 224
Jefferson City, MO 65101

PETER KINDER
Lieutenant Governor

Contact: Jay Eastlick
573-751-1088
jay.eastlick@ltgov.mo.gov

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 26, 2016

108 Missouri lawmakers sign on supporting Lt. Governor Peter Kinder's letter to Obama *Missouri legislators agree Obama's 'Dear Colleague Letter on Transgender Students' is 'unconstitutional abuse of authority'*

JEFFERSON CITY — More than 100 Missouri state senators and representatives, including the leaders of both legislative chambers, have signed on in support of a letter Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder today sent to President Barack Obama. Lt. Gov. Kinder's letter expresses strong opposition to the recent "Dear Colleague Letter on Transgender Students" from the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice to public schools across the nation, and asks President Obama to rescind the letter. The Obama Administration's Dear Colleague Letter attempts to dictate how Missouri public schools must run their facilities and programs to accommodate students who might claim transgender status.

The Missouri lawmakers joining Lt. Governor Kinder in asking President Obama to rescind the "Dear Colleague Letter on Transgender Students" are:

Sen. Ron Richard, President Pro Tem of the Senate
Rep. Todd Richardson, Speaker of the House of Representatives

Sen. Dan Brown
Sen. Mike Cunningham
Sen. Ed Emery
Sen. Dan Hegeman
Sen. Mike Kehoe
Sen. Will Kraus
Sen. Doug Libla
Sen. Brian Munzlinger
Sen. Bob Onder

Sen. Mike Parson
Sen. David Pearce
Sen. Jeanie Riddle
Sen. Gary Romine
Sen. David Sater
Sen. Dave Schatz
Sen. Kurt Schaefer
Sen. Eric Schmitt
Sen. Wayne Wallingford

Sen. Jay Wasson
Sen. Paul Wieland
Rep. Justin Alferman
Rep. Sonya Anderson
Rep. Allen Andrews
Rep. Kurt Bahr
Rep. Chuck Basye
Rep. Nathan Beard
Rep. Mike Bernskoetter

Rep. T.J. Berry
Rep. Linda Black
Rep. Jack Bondon
Rep. Rick Brattin
Rep. Cloria Brown
Rep. Wanda Brown
Rep. Eric Burlison
Rep. Jason Chipman
Rep. Kathie Conway
Rep. Steve Cookson
Rep. Robert Cornejo
Rep. Paul Curtman
Rep. Charlie Davis
Rep. J. Eggleston
Rep. Kevin Engler
Rep. Keith English
Rep. Scott Fitzpatrick
Rep. Paul Fitzwater
Rep. Travis Fitzwater
Rep. Lyndall Fraker
Rep. Diane Franklin
Rep. Keith Frederick
Rep. Elaine Gannon
Rep. Ron Hicks
Rep. Galen Higdon
Rep. Justin Hill
Rep. Denny Hoskins

Rep. Tila Hubrecht
Rep. Tom Hurst
Rep. Jeffery Justus
Rep. Shelley Keeney
Taylor
Rep. Mike Kelley
Rep. Bill Kidd
Rep. Nick King
Rep. Andrew Koenig
Rep. Glen Kolkmeyer
Rep. Bart Korman
Rep. Mike Lair
Rep. Bill Lant
Rep. Mike Leara
Rep. Warren Love
Rep. Steve Lynch
Rep. Kirk Mathews
Rep. John McCaherty
Rep. Andrew McDaniel
Rep. Joe Don McGaugh
Rep. Jeffrey Messenger
Rep. Rocky Miller
Rep. Mike Moon
Rep. Lynn Morris
Rep. Dave Muntzel
Rep. Jim Neely
Rep. Mark Parkinson

Rep. Don Phillips
Rep. Randy Pietzman
Rep. Patricia Pike
Rep. Dean Plocher
Rep. Jeff Pogue
Rep. Craig Redmon
Rep. Holly Rehder
Rep. Bill Reiboldt
Rep. Tim Remole
Rep. Shawn Rhoads
Rep. Rebecca Roeber
Rep. Don Rone
Rep. Robert Ross
Rep. Lyle Rowland
Rep. Dan Shaul
Rep. Noel Shull
Rep. Lindell Shumake
Rep. Bryan Sencer
Rep. Chrissy Sommer
Rep. Kathy Swan
Rep. Rob Vescovo
Rep. Nate Walker
Rep. John Wiemann
Rep. Kenneth Wilson
Rep. David Wood
Rep. Anne Zerr

Here is the text of Lt. Governor Kinder's letter, a copy of which is attached to this release:

Dear President Obama,

I am writing to express my total opposition to the "Dear Colleague" letter of May 13, issued by your appointed leaders at the Department of Education and the Department of Justice, dictating how public schools must run their facilities and programs to accommodate students who claim transgender status.

The letter and its demands are an unconstitutional abuse of authority by your executive branch. It is a blatant attempt to change established law, which is a function reserved for the legislative branch by the Constitution. By threatening local school districts with the loss of federal funding, your administration is seizing local control from public schools while threatening the privacy rights of Missouri students. Further, the demands set forth in the letter directly violate the Constitution's 10th Amendment, which states that those powers not delegated to the federal government are reserved to the states, respectively, or to the people.

The Dear Colleague letter goes against the majority of federal and state court decisions on this issue, as well as the clear text of Title IX and its regulations, all of which allow school districts to address these delicate issues as they see fit, when and if they arise. The letter puts Missouri public schools in the unjust position of having to choose between either doing what they know is best for their particular student population or receiving federal funding. School districts that feel forced to follow the letter's decree in order to continue to receive funding will undoubtedly open

themselves up to huge liabilities and potential lawsuits for violating students' privacy rights and undermining parental authority rights.

Missouri schools must not be forced to comply with this extraconstitutional decree and the practical implications it would have on their operations and on their students. Please have the "Dear Colleague" letter of May 13 rescinded immediately. Its demands amount to a serious, unconstitutional infringement on the liberties and lives of the people of Missouri.

Sincerely,

Peter D. Kinder
Lieutenant Governor of Missouri

The following members of the Missouri Legislature join me in asking that you rescind the "Dear Colleague Letter on Transgender Students":

###